Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0144

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 4508

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, LE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL USG FUNDS TO ICRC

REF: A) STATE 125192; B) BEIRUT 4506

- 1. AS REFTEL A RAISES FIRST CONCRETE CASE OF ADDITIONAL USG DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON SINCE I ASSUMED CHARGE OF THIS MISSION, I WISH TO REVIEW CAREFULLY USG OPTIONS IN MAKING MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION HERE. AS NOTED REFTEL B, I AM IN FAVOR OF SUPPORTING FURTHER USG CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICRC EFFORTS HERE. QUESTION IS ONE OF EMPLOYING SCARCE USG FINANCIAL RESOURCES MOST EFFECTIVELY.
- 2. I BELIEVE ICRC HAS UTILIZED PREVIOUS USG CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LEBANON AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN CONTEXT OF CONFUSED LOCAL MILITARY SITUATION. AT SAME TIME, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE IN THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (AUH) A MEDICAL FACILITY WITHOUT PEER IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH IS PROVIDING VITAL CASUALTY AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO LEBANESE CIVIL WAR VICTIMS. THE FACILITIES OF THIS UNIQUE INSTITUTION HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER SEVERE STRAIN BY THE LOCAL SITUATION. AUH AUTHORITIES ARE CURRENTLY PREPARING ESTIMATES OF ANTICIPATED NEEDS WHICH WE WILL BE EXAMINING AND REPORTING.

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3. I CONCUR ENTIRELY WITH THE DECISION TAKEN LAST FALL TO EMPLOY

AUH AS THE CONDUIT FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFRONTATION LINES. THE RECORD OF AUH IN PERFORMING THIS TASK WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF PREVAILING CONDITIONS HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING, AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO UTILIZE AUH FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT FURTHER DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO AND THROUGH AUH WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE USG UPON THE PRESENTATION OF A CONVINCING CASE, I FAVOR MAKING UP TO AN ADDITIONAL DOLLARS 500,000 AVAILABLE TO THE ICRC TO ASSIST IN THEIR LEBANESE PROGRAM. IF, HOWEVER, THE ALLOTMENT OF THIS AMOUNT TO ICRC WOULD CUT INTO FUNDS TO ASSIST AUH, I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST GIVE PRIORITY TO AIDING AUH.

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Message Attributes

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Subject: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL USG FUNDS TO ICRC TAGS: EAID, LE, ICRC To: STATE

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